

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEAE-00 HA-05 MCT-01
SSM-03 AID-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /089 W
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O R 301335Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8123
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2977

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: MAY 30, 1978 1500 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 2902 (DTG 250951Z MAY 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS AND YASIR ARAFAT
MET AT DOHA ON MAY 24, BUT A PLO OFFICIAL SAID ARAFAT CONCLUDED
NO NEW AGREEMENTS WITH THE GOL. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS
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DEMANDED AN EXPLANATION OF RECENT STATEMENTS ON LEBANON MADE
BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG. CLASHES AMONG CHRISTIANS CONTINUED.
CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS EXCHANGED FIRE IN THE SOUTH. END
SUMMARY.

2. DOHA MEETING.

PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS AND YASIR ARAFAT AS WELL AS OTHER LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS MET AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE AT DOHA ON MAY 24. AS REPORTED BY Wafa's ENGLISH LANGUAGE BULLETIN, PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN TALAL NAJI THE PLO "CONFIRMED ITS INTENTION TO ELIMINATE ALL ARMED MANIFESTATIONS IN THE SOUTH," AND PROMISED TO "SEEK TO GUARANTEE THE RETURN OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME TO LEBANON DURING THE ISRAELI INVASION."

3. PALESTINIAN REACTION TO DOHA MEETING.

A. YASIR ABID RABBU, HEAD OF THE PLO'S INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, MADE CLEAR THAT NAJI'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS A DECLARATION OF INTENT NOT A NEW AGREEMENT. RABBU WAS QUOTED IN LEFTIST AS SAFIR ON MAY 26 AS SAYING DISCUSSIONS FOR REORGANIZING LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS WOULD NOT BE HELD UNTIL AFTER COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON. HE ADDED THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GUARANTEES TO THE PALESTINIANS UNDER EXISTING AGREEMENTS (I.E. THE CAIRO AGREEMENT AND ITS ANNEXES.)

B. A REUTER'S STORY CARRIED LOCALLY MAY 29 SAID "OFFICIAL PALESTINIAN SOURCES" HAVE DECIDED TO LIMIT INFILTRATION BEHIND UNITED NATIONS LINES IN SOUTH LEBANON. THE STORY CITED ONE OF THE SOURCES AS SAYING: "THIS DECISION DOES NOT MEAN AN END TO THE GUERRILLA PRESENCE IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE UN. IT CONFIDENTIAL

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SIMPLY MEANS NO MORE REINFORCEMENTS WILL BE SENT TO THOSE AREAS. GUERRILLAS WILL CONTINUE TO CROSS THE UN LINES, BUT ONLY TO RELIEVE MEN IN THE SOUTH . . ." IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE MAY 29 EDITION OF MONDAY MORNING, FATAH OFFICIAL SALAH KHALAF (ABU IYAD) SAID "INFILTRATION, WHICH IMPLIES AN ILLEGAL ACT, IS NOT NEEDED."

4. BOUTROS DEMANDS EXPLANATION.

FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS TOLD THE PRESS ON MAY 29 THAT HE HAD ASKED THE USG FOR AN EXPLANATION OF RECENT STATEMENTS ON LEBANON BY USUN AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO THE MAGAZINE MIDDLE EAST (IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED NEITHER LEBANON NOR SYRIA WERE DISPLEASED TO SEE THE ISREALIS OCCUPY SOUTH LEBANON). SEVERAL BEIRUT PAPERS MAY 28 AND 29 CARRIED STORIES ON YOUNG'S INTERVIEW, INCLUDING INDIGNANT COMMENTS BY LEBANESE POLITICIANS.

5. CHRISTIAN CLASHES.

THERE HAVE BEEN MORE CLASHES BETWEEN CHRISTIAN FACTIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE MAY 11 GUNFIGHT IN THE EAST BEIRUT SUBURB OF DOWRA (SEE MAY 15 SITREP). ON MAY 23 UNIDENTIFIED MEN SPRAYED

A ROADSIDE CAFE IN BATROUN WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE, KILLING AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES. THE MEN CAME BACK LATER AND BLEW UP THE CAFE. LEFTIST AL LIWA SAID THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE PHALANGE PARTY, WHILE THE VICTIMS WERE SUPPORTERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT FULAYMAN FRANJIYAH. (RELIABLE DATT SOURCE ALSO REPORTED THAT THE INCIDENT WAS BETWEEN PHALANGISTS AND FRANJIYAH FOLLOWERS. SOURCE ADDED THAT INCIDENT LEFT SIX OF FRANJIYAH'S MEN DEAD AND SEVERAL BUILDINGS DESTROYED. A LEBANESE SECURITY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE QUARREL GREW OUT OF AN ATTEMPT BY GUARDIANS OF THE CEDAR TO BRING IN A SHIPMENT OF WEAPONS AND PHALANGIST INTEREST IN TAKING A SHARE OF THE GOODS.) ON MAY 24 THERE WERE GUN FIGHTS BETWEEN PHALANGE AND NATIONAL LIBERAL MILITIA IN CHRISTIAN SUBURBS EAST AND NORTH OF BEIRUT, ACCORDING TO THE VOICE OF PALESTINE. CONFIDENTIAL

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6. FIGHTING IN SOUTH LEBANON.

DATT SOURCES REPORT THAT SIX PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND FIFTEEN WOUNDED AND FIVE HOUSES DESTROYED IN NABATIYAH AT ABOUT 0900 ON MAY 28 DURING A 30 MINUTE ROCKET ATTACK BY RIGHTIST MILITIA. THE ATTACK WAS REPORTEDLY IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER ARTILLERY FIRE FROM PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS IN THE NABATIYAH AREA. LANE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT02977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-1296
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978059/aaaaahiz.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6dd3cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 2902
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2782331
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION: MAY 30, 1978 1500 HOURS LOCAL
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6dd3cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014